

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 224460

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 /022 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 224460

TOSEC 494, ZFF TOKYO ONLY

BRUSSELS FOR SISCO

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FM CAIRO NOV 12 REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION

QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 3483

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG EG

SUBJECT: DELAY IN SIGNING MOBIL OFFSHORE EXPLORATION
CONCESSION

IN COURSE OF COURTESY CALL BY FRICKER, RESIDENT MOBIL
MANAGER, AND VISITING MOBIL REPRESENTATIVES MARQUANDT
AND SAWTELLE FROM NEW YORK, THEY INDICATED EGYPTIANS
HAVE TOLD THEM PROPOSED SIGNING OF MOBIL OFFSHORE
EXPLORATION CONCESSION COVERING AREA BETWEEN PORT
SAID AND ALEXANDRIA HAS TO BE POSTPONED FOR TIME BEING.
ALTHOUGH SUCH CONCESSION AUTHORIZED IN PRESIDENTIAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 224460

DECREE ISSUED TWO DAYS BEFORE RECENT OUTBREAK OF HOS-

TILITIES AND NEGOTIATIONS ON DETAILS OF AGREEMENT HAVE SINCE BEEN UNDER WAY AND ARE VIRTUALLY COMPLETED, CHAIRMAN EL LETHY OF THE EGYPTIAN GENERAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION HAS TOLD MOBIL THAT CONCESSION AREA IS IN MILITARY ZONE AND THAT EGYPTIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME ALLOW WORK TO BEGIN EVEN IF CONCESSION AGREEMENT SIGNED. EL LETHY DISAPPOINTED AND APPARENTLY INDICATED HE HOPES SIGNING MAY TAKE PLACE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. FRICKER BELIEVES, HOWEVER, IT MAY BE AT LEAST SIX WEEKS, DEPENDING ON HOW AREA SITUATION DEVELOPS. HIS EGYPTIAN CONTACTS HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ARE RELUCTANT TO SIGN OIL CONCESSION AGREEMENTS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS, EVEN FOR EXPLORATION, AT VERY TIME WHEN ARAB OIL EMBARGO HAS BEEN IMPOSED. FRICKER UNDERSTANDS THAT EXXON REPRESENTATIVES HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR POSTPONEMENT NOTIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH OFFSHORE CONCESSION AREA BETWEEN ALEXANDRIA AND LIBYAN BORDER FOR WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING.

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